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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Power Supply in the Soviet Zone

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1. The installed power capacity in the year 1952 amounted to 5,321 megawatts. This capacity had to provide for the five power circuits: north, east, middle, west and south, in addition to exports of power. The last concerned mainly exports of current to Poland by the Kraftwerk Hirschfelde. The power produced was distributed among 18 SAG plants, 291 VEB plants, and 1,120 communal establishments.
2. A capacity of 6,600 megawatts is planned for the year 1955. This capacity can be attained, because running investments create the groundwork for it. Costs of current production, however, are about three times as high as in 1936, due to increased costs of maintenance and coal supply.
3. In spite of the increased capacity, the Soviet Zone's supply of current will not be normal in 1955. Continuing breakdowns of turbines make necessary frequent switching change-overs. According to a survey by the Division of Planning and Statistics, the mechanical equipment of the power-producing plants can first be brought to a normal position by 1958, if investments continue at the same rate.
4. The distribution of power presents another continuing difficulty. The main consuming areas and the main power-producing plants are distant from one another. The transformer facilities are not adequate to make the distribution. New high tension lines cannot be constructed so far, because there is practically no bronze wire available. A large part of the investment funds must still be used for the extension of the current network in the Wismut area.

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